

Having Our Say

The newsletter of SaySo, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out

SPECIAL SAYSO EDUCATION EDITION

(or “How to Get Money for College?”)

Volume5, Number 2

About SaySo, Inc.

SaySo is a statewide association of youth aged 14 to 24 who are or have been in North Carolina's out-of-home care system. This includes all types of substitute care, including foster care, group homes, and mental health placements.

Our mission is to work to improve the substitute care system by educating the community, speaking out about needed changes, and providing support to youth who are or have been in substitute care.

Become a Member!

If you are interested in joining **SaySo**, let us know! E-mail or write us with the following information: your name, age, and address (including e-mail), region and the kind of out-of-home placement you are or have been in.

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“**What am I going to do when I get out of high school?**” is the question most teens ask themselves every year as graduation creeps up. Seniors have the most responsibility because it is their last year of high school before college life begins. It's not too early for sophomores and juniors to get start exploring their options. All of the following must be completed when m

- Take SAT I and/or SAT II exams, if necessary.
- Work on admissions application essays.
- Visit your top school choices. If possible, interview students, faculty, and staff.
- Attend special programs such as college fairs and financial aid nights.
- Find out which financial aid applications are required and when they are due.
- Some private universities may require that you register for the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE at this time.
(This will determine your qualification for private school aid.)



In addition to completing admissions applications and writing personal essays, be sure to plan ahead for upcoming financial aid deadlines. Don't just wait to receive a college's acceptance letter before you apply for financial aid there. The availability of aid should be one of the factors you consider when you choose a college. Schools will send you financial aid information before you accept their offers of admission. Some may be able to offer grants or scholarships from their own funds. If you wait until a school has accepted you before checking into these grants and scholarships, they may already be gone.

Soon you'll fill out a form called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You'll have to submit this form to apply for financial aid programs run by the federal government and many state governments. Mark your calendar now and plan to submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st. The FAFSA will ask questions about your income and savings (as well as family income). Be sure to have your social worker write a letter indicating you are in foster care so family income is not considered. Colleges will use this financial information to determine how much financial aid you can get.

Now here's the good news....

On the reverse of this letter are websites, which can help you, get money for school. The *greatest news* is **North Carolina foster youths (and youths adopted after 16 years old)** are eligible to apply for ETV's through the Orphan Foundation
....read on....

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College is a REAL Opportunity!!!!

The following are some websites you can go to for **financial assistance**:

www.ilrinc.com then “click” **North Carolina LINKS** – find information on **education/training vouchers (ETV’s)** and other things. The North Carolina Education and Training Voucher Program offers funds to foster youth and former foster youth to enable them to attend college, universities, **and vocational training institutions**. Students may receive up to **\$5000 per year** for four years as they pursue higher education. The funds may be used for any costs associated with attending the school such as tuition, fees, books, room and board, transportation, or repayment of student loans. To apply, this link will connect you to the **Orphan Foundation**.

www.educaid.com/gimmefive.htm

Twelve times a year, Educaid awards a lucky high school senior with a "Gimme Five" five thousand-dollar scholarship toward their college or trade school expenses! Seniors are eligible regardless of their GPA or financial need, so everyone is invited to enter to win!



Getting support from people could be one of the hardest things to do because many people would prefer to get a scholarship or grant rather taking out a loan in order to pay off college fees. However, getting together with members of the community and forming a support group will strengthen the person’s hopes and dreams. Most support should come from where you live, the community, and church when a teenager is choosing his/her career goals.



College students usually have many unanswered questions as well as high school students. Taking out student loans can be a headache however, applying for financial aid, scholarships and grants can help one who is in need financially.

www.cfnc.org The College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) created this site, which is loaded with information and resources to help you make smart decisions as you plan for college and a career, compare over 100 North Carolina colleges and link easily to their Web sites, simplify the college application process by applying online, and find the best way to pay for college with scholarships, grants, loans, and savings programs.



**LET’S INSPIRE ALL NORTH CAROLINA YOUTH TO
TAKE A GRAB AT EDUCATION... STAY IN SCHOOL,
BECAUSE A MIND IS TRULY A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE**